

# MICHIGAN'S LIGHTHOUSES

## STATEWIDE



In 1998, when Michigan faced a future in which the U.S. Coast Guard would close some 70 lighthouses, the Michigan Lighthouse Project formed. The following year the Michigan Legislature established the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program to assist local groups in preserving and protecting lighthouses, and in 2001 the Michigan "Save Our Lights" license plate was introduced to raise additional funds for the program. Since 2000 more than \$985,000 has been awarded. In December 2006, a total of \$233,300 in grants was awarded for following lighthouses: Charlevoix South Pier Lighthouse, DeTour Reef Light Station, Grand Traverse Light Station, Grosse Ile North Channel Front Range Light, Gull Rock Light Station, Manitou Island Light Station, Point Betsie Light Station, and South Haven South Pier Light Station.

In the 2006 press announcement introducing the Michigan Lighthouse and Maritime Heritage Act, sponsored by U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and Congressman Dave Camp, Senator Stabenow noted, "Michigan's lighthouses are central to our heritage and our economy, drawing thousands of tourist to our state every year. This new law will strengthen communities throughout Michigan by preserving our rich history and creating jobs for our future."

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MICHIGAN LIGHTHOUSE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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